

HOW THE COAST GUARD SAVE LIFE.

One of the most humane institutions supported by the governments of the world, is the life-saving service of the ocean. Along the coasts are rocky reefs and shoals, on which storm-driven vessels are ever liable to be wrecked.

Various methods are employed to give warning of danger to the mariner, such as light vessels, for signals, buoys and beacons. In 1873, there were upon the different sea and lake coasts of our country six hundred and forty-one light stations.

Notwithstanding all these means, vessels are frequently driven on rocks and wrecked. And thus it becomes necessary that some means should be maintained close by these dangerous points, by which the sailors can be saved from a watery grave, and property on board of the vessel be rescued.

For this purpose the government has erected at certain intervals along our sea and lake coasts, life-saving stations. These are neat, substantial frame buildings, one and a half stories high, forty feet long and twenty wide. They afford ample room for the boats, wagons for carrying the boats, ladders, and all the other necessary apparatus. They are provided with comfortable apartments for those who have the care of them, and also for those who may be rescued from a wreck.

At each station experienced surfmen are kept constantly on duty during the winter months; and these are in charge of a competent keeper, who is regularly appointed by the secretary of the treasury. From the first of December to the first of April, these men are required to patrol the beach day and night, watching for any wreck that may occur.

If a wreck is discovered, information is immediately sent from one station to another by signals, consisting of flags by day, and colored lights at night. When the signal is raised all haste is made to the scene of disaster, and every means employed to rescue the unfortunate. It is possible, the life-boats are launched and manned by the surfmen, who dash out on the tumbling waves, and pull for the ship, where the people are taken on board, and conveyed in safety to the shore.

This is often extremely hazardous, but these noble fellows, thinking only of saving the lives of their fellow men, fearlessly risk their own in the performance of duty. Frequently it is impossible for the men to reach the ship with boats, and then other means must be employed. For instance they see a vessel driven on the jagged rocks, where it is impossible to reach it with boats.

For such emergencies these stations are provided with a small cannon, or mortar, of five and one half inches calibre, from which is thrown an iron ball weighing about twenty pounds. To this ball is attached a line, one inch in diameter, by means of a spiral spring to take up the jerk.

The line is coiled in a peculiar manner in a box or on the ground, and when the shot has been successfully thrown over the wreck, a larger line, two inches in diameter, is then attached to the shore end of the smaller line, and is hauled off by the people on the wreck; and by means of this line a four-inch hawser is then hauled on board and made fast.

This is then made taut by the men on shore, and fastened by means of tacks, anchors, etc. By means of the second, or the third line, the various appliances are hauled back and forth until the people are saved.

The life-car is often attached to the large hawser. This is a covered metallic boat, capable of holding four grown persons or eight small children. It is so constructed as to be water-tight, and by means of it persons are frequently transferred from the ship to the shore without being wet.

GENERAL "BOB RANSOM."

An Interesting War Reminiscence from Capt. Peck.

MESSENGER EDITORS:—It may interest the old North Carolina campaigners to hear of an interview the writer had at Newbern, N. C., a short time ago with the Confederate General, Robert Ransom.

The details of his remarkable escape from capture by the 27th Massachusetts, in the "Gum Swamp" fight were discussed with much interest, the sturdy old veteran declaring that he owed his escape to the fine mare on which he was mounted, and to his ability to make her do his bidding.

which, in this case, was to jump a ten-foot ditch and penetrate a swamp, ordinarily considered impassable for either horse or rider. The 27th had flanked his position during the preceding night, by following an unrequented path, and riding down from Kinston, the first troops the General saw were some of the 27th, as their line of battle swung around in the rear of the Confederates unbeknown to them.

The surprise was complete; he had not a minute to think. The barrels of a dozen Yankee rifles were levelled at him, but without heeding them, he clapped the spurs to his splendid steed, and dashing through the thicket and over the ditch (like Putnam at Horse Neck), he made good his escape, while his less venturesome followers fell into our hands.

Had not the sight of a mounted officer in grey, apparently of high rank, caused our men to hesitate, a prompt discharge of their pieces would have deprived the Confederate army of one of its ablest and bravest generals and the writer of a very pleasant interview. It was at this juncture that Lieut. Wood of the Westfield company, (the lamented "Uncle Pin") seeing some "Johnnies" concealed in the bushes, pointing his sword at them, yelled in his peculiar squeaking tone, "Surrender, yer rascals, or I'll blow yer brains out."

They probably thought his sword was "loaded," for they surrendered promptly, and the first greeting "Uncle Pin" gave them was, "Won't yer take suthin, boys?" and they "took."

It was Ransom who commanded the 27th, and he was at the head of the bluff and so outgeneralled Butler as to nearly annihilate Heckman's brigade and inflict the heaviest loss on the 27th Massachusetts they ever received in one battle. The General declares that he had great confidence in the success of his attack that morning, from the fact that he previously knew the character of the generals on our side with whom he had to deal.

"Baldy" Smith on the right, and Gilmore on the left were both educated as engineers, and the characteristic of officers of this class is extreme caution. He therefore hoped by a rapid and well supported movement, to crush the right of our line, composed of Heckman's brigade, a simultaneous attack being made all along the front to prevent any movement from any part to reinforce Heckman.

Of Butler's generalship he seems to have had about the same estimate as that held by members of the 27th. (3) The movement against Heckman's brigade was successful, though at a large loss to Kemper's brigade of Virginians, which attacked the 27th and were twice repulsed; but Gracie's brigade attacked and turned the flank of the 23d Mass. and 9th N. J., on the extreme right and swinging around came down in overwhelming numbers on the rear of the 27th, who in the dense fog that prevailed, did not perceive them until but a few rods off and too late to make any tactical stand, the result being that the 27th was "sandwiched" between Kemper's and Gracie's Confederate brigades; but the "sandwich" was not closed rapidly enough, and most of the Westfield company, and some from the other companies, "oozed out," as the sides came together, and by some fighting and more running, took to the woods, made good their escape and succeeded in preserving a remnant of the regiment.

"He who fights and runs away, May live to fight another day," Was especially true of the now weakened 27th, as its subsequent record too sadly shows.

At the time of this interview the gallant General was just recovering from a severe illness, induced by overwork as agent of the United States government for improvement of navigation on the Neuse river. He was educated for the army at West Point, and early entering the service of the Confederacy, became one of its ablest military commanders. He still has the military atmosphere about him and the old fire in his eye, and, in the event of another call to arms, the now "consolidated" 27th North Carolina and 27th Massachusetts could not choose a more efficient commander than General "Bob" Ransom.

E. L. P.

THE MORRISON-HEWITT TARIFF BILL. The Morrison-Hewitt tariff bill was reported last week from the Committee on Ways and Means. It is almost unnecessary to say any thing of its provisions as they have been stated in advance in this correspondence.

The report of the majority of the committee accompanying the bill says that the annual reduction of revenue, if it passes, will amount to about \$24,000,000. The duties intended to be removed are those on articles used by our own manufacturers, which increase the cost of their productions, so as to make their competition with foreign countries hopeless.

that a reduction of duties is demanded when average ad valorem rates show a high percentage. * * * To base a reduction of tariff duties upon the present business condition and the present low values and unprofitable prices is to assume that the present unsatisfactory condition is to continue and ought to. The report claims that the bill is an assault upon the farmers and the fishing industries, and protests against its passage.

MOORE COUNTY ITEMS.

CARTHAGE, N. C., April 15, '86. Editor Messenger:—The Spring term of Moore Superior Court, commenced here on Monday last, April 12th, with His Honor, E. T. Boykin, presiding. This being the first visit of His Honor to our county, we looked for his coming with great expectancy, mingled with feelings of fear and apprehension upon the part of those who knew him not.

He arrived and was upon arrival, viewed from every point of observation, the cellar, as well as the house top. One view of his benign countenance and unassuming demeanor, and a sigh of relief escaped many lips. There has been a large crowd in constant attendance upon our court from its convening.

One cause of the large attendance at this season is the pendency of two capital cases, the trial of one of which is now in progress. These cases are "State against Julius J. Luck" for homicide of S. P. Show and Calvin Ray at Manly in this county, on the R. & A. L. R. W. The other is a case of alleged rape, the parties both being negroes. The case is entitled "State vs. Bill McKenzie."

At this moment Mr. Thomas H. Sutton, of counsel for the prisoner, is presenting to the jury, in the most forcible manner, the case for the defendant in the "Luck case." Mr. Thomas J. Shaw, a young attorney, originally from this county, but now from Montgomery has already addressed the jury on behalf of the State, and his speech commanded much attention and excited much comment, on account of the clearness with which his views were expressed and the impressive manner of their expression.

It is understood that Maj. John D. Shaw, of Richmond, will follow Mr. Sutton, and the prisoner sets trembling in the dock, every time he looks at the Major. We have heard of him often and when he is against us, we involuntarily and mechanically exclaim "The Lord save us." Mr. J. C. Black will follow Maj. Shaw and we, of this county, well know what the "Little Giant" can and will do. He represents the prisoner Luck.

The argument will close with the speech of Solicitor James D. McIver. Any allusion to his ability to make a prisoner feel his position would be superfluous. The public is on the "qui vive" to hear his speech. When "Captain Jim" as he is familiarly called believes that a man is guilty, that man had better commence to pray. What his feelings are in this case, your correspondent cannot positively say. If he believes Luck guilty, he will make a telling and a powerful effort. If he is not entirely satisfied on this point, the jury will soon find it out. For if McIver should inadvertently hurt a bird, a dog or a worm, he would have it on his mind a week. (There was a verdict of manslaughter in Luck's case.)

Judge Boykin has dispatched the business of the court with exceeding rapidity. Where heretofore he could number his friends by units, it now requires hundreds, which in a few weeks, from reports will swell into thousands. I will stop for want of space. E. S.

Thousands Say So. Mr. T. W. Atkins, Girard, Kan., writes: "I never hesitated to recommend your Electric Bitters to my customers, they give entire satisfaction and are rapid sellers." Electric Bitters are the purest and best medicine known and will positively cure Kidney and Liver complaints. Purify the blood and regulate the bowels. No family can afford to be without them. They save hundreds of dollars in doctor's bills every year. Sold at fifty cents a bottle by Kirby & Robinson.

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